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Our correspondent commends the advice lately given by Mr. Armour, as we did in our article. He complains that our farmers are not thorough in their work, and that excellent farming lands in the East have been neglected and abandoned by farmers who "have gone West to look for fresh fields to skin"—points which we have ourselves repeatedly made.

In so far as he disagrees with our article on the question of drainage his disagreement is really with the Government report which we were quoting; and we cannot see that he convicts it of error. Drainage undoubtedly costs a good deal. But if through it land now quite unproductive can be made to yield returns of \$100 an acre, we must believe that it would be possible and profitable to have it done.

Finally, as to labor. There are myriads of able-bodied men who because of some slight defect—lack of weight, color-blindness, flat-footedness, loss of a finger or two, or what not—are unacceptable for the army but are perfectly capable of farm work. We trust that it will not be necessary to draft them for such work, but if it were, they would be taken "from the factories, from the banks, the post office," etc., just as much as but no more than those whom the Government will draft for the army. In drafting soldiers the Government will not destroy nor check those industries, and neither would it do so in drafting farmers, if it had to do so. It is true, as our correspondent says, that one now rarely sees a tramp. On the other hand the State Government of New Jersey last month announced that as a result of its official canvass it had registered more men and boys for farm work than it could find places for, and it urged land-owners to increase the amount of work on their places, either by tilling more land or by tilling it more thoroughly, so as to utilize this waiting and idle labor.

We have an idea that if our correspondent and we should get together at the shady end of our bean patch for a talk, we should find ourselves in amazingly close agreement.—EDITOR.]

LETTERS OF GERMAN SOLDIERS

SIR,—On page 837 of your JUNE REVIEW you make mention of a remarkable letter, replete with treason, found on a German prisoner, addressed to his wife. In your comment thereon you state further "that it was like scores and hundreds of letters that for some months have been coming into British hands—letters of wailing misery, letters of bitterest despair, letters of deep, of almost murderous anger against the German officers."

There are a few things about these letters found on German prisoners, exploited for some time by the American and British press evidently for the purpose of convincing the public that Germany is on the verge of a collapse, that I as a plain man cannot comprehend and would like to have a little more light from a man of your caliber and experience.

I have seen repeated statements that even in the American army, in war time, the soldiers are not at liberty to write what they please in letters to friends and relatives, and should they embody such treasonable utterances, imprisonment if not execution would speedily overtake them. Even civilians who slammed our President by slanderous speech have been nabbed by secret service men all through the country. The Allies too exercise a

very strict censorship over what soldiers may and may not write in letters. Such treasonable utterances could not get through the mail and would bring speedy and dire punishment on the heads of the perpetrators.

Our press has from time to time stated that censorship is strictest of all in Germany and above all in the German army. I cannot comprehend if these facts be true, how a German soldier writing such a treasonable letter could ever see a possibility of its passing the censor and reaching its destination. I do not see how a German soldier would risk such a thing unless he had made up his mind to die.

If this matter about the finding of such letters on German prisoners is not mere phantasy or fiction, does it not appear to be a ruse under the connivance of army officers to pull the wool over British eyes as to the real conditions in Germany in order to make them believe that a collapse in Germany is imminent? Or does it show that there is greater freedom in so-called autocratic Germany than in democratic America and Britain?

SUPERIOR, WIS.

J. S. ROESLER.

WHY SPARE GERMANY'S ALLIES?

SIR,—In the June issue of the REVIEW you say, in discussing "Fair Play for the Government and Whole Truth for the People," that "this is not a popular war." We agree with you. In fact, it is doubtful whether any war in the history of civilization has ever been popular while it was waging, when the participants did not instinctively long for peace, the natural state of society.

What the American people lack at this time, and without which victory will never be achieved, is intelligent enthusiasm concerning the causes of the war and the probable effects. They are told that we are fighting for "Democracy" and "Humanity." The full meaning of these abstract terms they do not fully grasp. They do not realize what German victory would mean, the extent and depth of their suffering should the world be placed under the yoke of the same principles which now dominate Germany and her allies. You were among the first to see the danger that menaced the entire world should Germany emerge in triumph from this war, and you were among the first to urge that America throw her strength with England and France and Russia in this war for the freedom of the world. The President himself said, in his declaration, that we were fighting for a great principle and not merely to avenge a single insult. Why, then, do we not declare war on Austria, Turkey, and Bulgaria? Are they not fighting side by side with Germany for the same ideals which Germany upholds? Is not the fact that they are allied with Germany and will make peace only upon terms dictated by Germany sufficient evidence that they are our enemies, even though as yet they have committed no "overt act" directly against the United States?

These are the problems that confront the American people. When the menace of Prussianism is made sufficiently clear, when the people become convinced that there is a real and terrible danger which they must fight against if civilization is to endure, it is our belief that, while the war will not be a popular one, it will at least be as enthusiastically waged as any war in the history of our beloved country.

NEW YORK CITY.

W. J. FULLER.